

### **REMARKS**

The Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and thus, respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

### **Status of Claims**

Claims 1-12 were pending in this patent application. In response to the Office Action, the Applicant has withdrawn claims 1-6 and claims 11-12. Thus, claims 7-10 are currently pending.

### **Summary of the Invention**

The claimed invention is related to a drill bit for a reverse circulation rock drill. The drill bit has a head with a working face and a shank of reduced diameter as compared with the working face. The drill bit also has one or more intake holes in the working face leading to a passage extending up the drill bit shank. The drill bit head has at a location spaced from the working operative face, a circumferential band or collar providing a cylindrical external surface coaxial with the drill bit, the diameter of the circumferential band or collar being substantially equal to the effective diameter of the working face of the drill bit and not less than the diameter of any other part of the drill bit. Further, the drill bit has a circumferential groove around its exterior, below the circumferential band or collar and passages for exhaust air discharging into said groove, whereby such air can pass around the front of the drill bit and across the face to exit through the intake holes.

### **Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372**

The Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 and §372 and in accordance thereof, the Applicant is required to elect to prosecute the claims in Group I, II, III, or IV.

The Applicant elects to prosecute the claims in Group IV which includes claims 7-10, drawn to a drill bit. This election is made without traverse. Non-elected claims 1-6 and 11-12 are withdrawn from consideration herein. The Applicant reserves the right to subsequently file divisional application(s) directed to these non-elected claims.

**Conclusion**

The Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for further examination and allowance. If the Examiner has any question or issue concerning the forgoing election, a call to the undersigned at the phone number provided below would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Carol A. Marmo".

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